

REMARKS

Claim 42 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. New claims 51-61 have been added. Accordingly, claims 29, 31-45, and 47-61 are currently pending in this application. The status of the application in light of the Office Action mailed January 17, 2007, is as follows:

(A) Claims 29, 31-39, 41-45, 47, 49, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,848,389 ("Gapp") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,375,120 ("Wolnek").

(D) Claims 40 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gapp in view of Wolnek as applied to claims 29 and 47, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,556,591 ("Bannink").

As a preliminary matter the undersigned wishes to thank Patent Examiner Ferguson for participating in an Examiner Interview on April 11, 2007. During the interview, the Gapp and Wolnek references were discussed. Although no agreement was reached, the Examiner indicated that the language in new claim 51 may be patentable over the cited references pending an additional search and further consideration. This paper constitutes the applicant's summary of this interview. If the Examiner notes any deficiencies with regard to this summary, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney.

C. Response to Section 103 Rejections Based on Gapp in View of Wolnek

Claim 29 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gapp in view of Wolnek. As described below, the rejection of claim 29 should be withdrawn because Gapp and Wolnek do not disclose or suggest all of the features of this claim.

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